	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/679,255	MANN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BRANDI P. PARKER	3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>Applicants Amendments filed 5/7/2010</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>9-14 and 22-27</u>.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

/Romain Jeanty/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624

ALLOWANCE

1.   The following is an Allowance in response to communications filed on 5/7/2010.

2.   Claims 9-14 and 22-27 are pending. Claims 15-21 are cancelled.

Examiner's Amendment

3.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Claims 9-14 and 22-27 are pending. Claims 15 is cancelled. Claims 9 and 22-27 are amended. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard N. Sommers (Registration# 24318) on July 26, 2010.

Amendment to the Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance comprising:

analysis and management software for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships, to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

memory, for storing the analysis and management software; and

a processor, for processing the analysis and management software;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a "CLARITY", said "'CLARITY" equals:

$$Clarity = \frac{Links(confirmed)}{Link(confirmed) + Links(unconfirmed)}$$

wherein the range of clarity is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 represents a total lack of clarity and 1 represents perfect agreement [(within the present agreement criteria)].

10.   (previously presented)   A system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance comprising:

analysis and management software for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships, to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

memory, for storing the analysis and management software; and

a processor, for processing the analysis and management software;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises an "INVOLVEMENT", said "INVOLVEMENT" equals:

$$Involvement = \frac{L}{N(2^{N-1}-1)}$$

where: L = confirmed links with Importance $\geq$ 3

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} -1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

wherein the range of involvement is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no important interactions with others and 1 = full involvement.

11.   (previously presented)   A system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance comprising:

analysis and management software for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships, to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

memory, for storing the analysis and management software; and

a processor, for processing the analysis and management software;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a "LEVERAGE", said "LEVERAGE" equals:

$$\text{Leverage} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L° = number of confirmed links with Importance = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

wherein the range of leverage is $0 \le 1$, where 0 = no leverage and 1 = maximum leverage.

12.   (previously presented)   A system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance comprising:

analysis and management software for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships, to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

memory, for storing the analysis and management software; and

a processor, for processing the analysis and management software;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a "PRIORITY", said "PRIORITY" equals:

$$\text{Priority} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{10N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L_a = number of half-links with Impact = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

wherein the range of priority values is $0 \le 1$.

13.   (previously presented) A system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance comprising:

analysis and management software for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various

system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool

characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other

on said issues and relationships, to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or

monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and

enhancing various aspects of the organization;

memory, for storing the analysis and management software; and

a processor, for processing the analysis and management software,

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a

"RELATIVE PRIORITY", said "RELATIVE PRIORITY" equals:

$$\text{Relative Priority} = \frac{P_a}{\sum_i P_i}$$

where: Pn = Priority value of issue n

i = issue number.

14.   (previously presented) A system for enhanced business analysis and

management capable of predictive organizational performance comprising:

analysis and management software for defining the status of complex

system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their

perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues

and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships, to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

memory, for storing the analysis and management software; and

a processor, for processing the analysis and management software,

wherein said tool characteristic includes a [the] metric, said metric comprises an "INTEGRATION", said "INTEGRATION" equals:

$$\text{Integration} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N_1N_2}$$

where: L_a = number of confirmed links between unit 1 and unit 2 with Importance = a

N1, N2 = total number of links in unit 1 and unit 2

wherein the range of integration is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no connection between units and 1 = full integration.

15. (currently amended) [(withdrawn)] (cancelled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A method of enhancing business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance in a system which comprises analysis and management software, for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships[.], to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization; wherein the method comprises:

storing the analysis and management software in the memory; and processing the analysis and management software in [the] a processor, which includes:

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,

to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a "CLARITY", said "'CLARITY" equals:

$$\text{Clarity} = \frac{\text{Links(confirmed)}}{\text{Link(confirmed)} + \text{Links(unconfirmed)}}$$

wherein the range of clarity is $0 \le 1$, where 0 represents a total lack of clarity and 1 represents perfect agreement [(within the present agreement criteria)].

23. (currently amended) A method of enhancing business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance in a system which

comprises analysis and management software, for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships[.], to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization; wherein the method comprises:

storing the analysis and management software in the memory; and processing the analysis and management software in [the] a processor, which includes:

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,

to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises an "INVOLVEMENT", said "INVOLVEMENT" equals:

$$\text{Involvement} = \frac{L}{N(2^{N-1}-1)}$$

where: L = confirmed links with Importance $\geq$ 3

N = total population ($[2^{N-1}-1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

wherein the range of involvement is $0 \leq [I]\ \underline{1}$, where 0 = no important interactions with others and 1 = full involvement.

24. (currently amended) A method of enhancing business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance in a system which comprises analysis and management software, for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool

characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships[.], to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization; wherein the method comprises:

storing the analysis and management software in the memory; and processing the analysis and management software in [the] a processor, which includes:

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,

to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a "LEVERAGE", said "LEVERAGE" equals:

$$\text{Leverage} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: $L° =$ number of confirmed links with Importance = a

$N =$ total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a population of size N)

wherein the range of leverage is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no leverage and 1 = maximum leverage.

25. (currently amended) A method of enhancing business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance in a system which comprises analysis and management software, for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships[.], to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization; wherein the method comprises:

storing the analysis and management software in the memory; and processing the analysis and management software in [the] a processor, which includes:

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their

perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or

relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of

issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational

components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting

the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and

relationships,

to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization

change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of

the organization;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a

"PRIORITY", said "PRIORITY" equals:

$$\text{Priority} = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{10N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L_a = number of half-links with Impact = a

N = total population ($[2^{N-1} - 1]$ represents the maximum number of links in a

population of size N)

wherein the range of priority values is $0 \le 1$.

26. (currently amended) A method of enhancing business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance in a system which comprises analysis and management software, for defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships[.], to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization; wherein the method comprises:

storing the analysis and management software in the memory; and processing the analysis and management software in [the] a processor, which includes:

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting

the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and

relationships,

to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization

change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of

the organization;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises a

"RELATIVE PRIORITY", said "RELATIVE PRIORITY" equals:

$$\text{Relative Priority} = \frac{P_a}{\sum_i P_i}$$

where: Pn = Priority value of issue n

i = issue number.

27. (currently amended) A method of enhancing business analysis and

management capable of predictive organizational performance in a system which

comprises analysis and management software, for defining the status of complex

system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, for obtaining

input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the

significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships

within the organization; and for quantifying the agreement among various

system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool

characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other

on said issues and relationships[.], to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or

monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and

enhancing various aspects of the organization; wherein the method comprises:

storing the analysis and management software in the memory; and processing

the analysis and management software in [the] a processor, which includes:

obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their

perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or

relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of

issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among said various system/organizational

components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting

the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and

relationships,

to establish benchmarks for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization

change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of

the organization;

wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric, said metric comprises

an "INTEGRATION", said "INTEGRATION" equals:

$$\text{Integration} = \underline{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}$$

$$5N_1N_2$$

where: L_a = number of confirmed links between unit 1 and unit 2
with Importance = a

N1, N2 = total number of links in unit 1 and unit 2

wherein the range of integration is 0 ≤ 1, where 0 = no connection

between units and 1 = full integration.

Reasons for Allowance

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the

prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach, calculating tool

characteristics metrics CLARITY, INVOLVEMENT, LEVERAGE, PRIORITY,

RELATIVE PRIORITY, and INTEGRATION in accordance with claims 9-14 and 22-27.

5.   The prior art most closely resembling Applicant's claimed invention is Townsend

(US Patent No. 6,631,473) and Hambrick et al (US Patent No. 5,671,360).

Townsend teaches a system and method for defining the status of complex

system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, quantifying the

agreement among the various components relative to selected tool characteristics and

establishing benchmarks. However, Townsend fails to teach obtaining perception

input data from organization participants or calculating tool characteristics metrics

CLARITY, INVOLVEMENT, LEVERAGE, PRIORITY, RELATIVE PRIORITY, and

INTEGRATION in accordance with the formulas provided in claims 9-14 and 22-27.

Hambrick et al teaches a system and method for project management using a

people oriented work environment tool, including a metric for leverage. However,

Hambrick et al fails to teach obtaining perception input data from organization

participants or calculating tool characteristics metrics CLARITY, INVOLVEMENT,

PRIORITY, RELATIVE PRIORITY, and INTEGRATION in accordance with the

formulas provided in claims 9-14 and 22-27.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to BRANDI P. PARKER whose telephone number is (571)

272-9796. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. 8-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Lynda C. Jasmin can be reached on (571) 272-6782. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRANDI P PARKER/
Examiner, Art Unit 3624
7/26/2010

/Romain Jeanty/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624